

APPENDIX (Amended Material)

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. Apparatus comprising:

a first supply source of sterile air;

a supply source of sterilant, wherein the supply source of sterilant includes a spoon dipper apparatus;

an atomizing system producing an atomized sterilant from the mixing of the sterile air from the first supply source of sterile air with the sterilant;

a second supply source of a hot sterile air for providing the hot sterile air to the atomized sterilant;

a [probe] mechanism for applying the atomized sterilant [into an interior of] on to a container;

[a mechanism for extending and retracting the probe into the interior of the container;]

and

a third supply source of a hot sterile drying air for activating and drying the sterilant in the interior of the container, wherein the container is upright.

11. A method for sterilizing a container comprising:

providing a first supply of sterile air;

providing a supply of sterilant including providing a spoon dipper apparatus for measuring the quantity of the sterilant;

producing an atomized sterilant by mixing the first supply of sterile air with the sterilant;

providing a second supply of hot sterile air to the atomized sterilant;

[providing a probe for applying the atomized sterilant into an interior of a container; extending the probe into the interior of the container;]
applying the atomized sterilant [into the interior of] to the container; and
supplying a third supply of hot sterile drying air for activating and drying the sterilant in the interior of the container, wherein the container is upright.

21. Apparatus comprising:

means for supplying a first source of sterile air;
means for supplying a source of sterilant, including a spoon dipper apparatus;
means for providing an atomizing system for producing an atomized sterilant from the mixing of sterile air from the first source of sterile air with the sterilant;
means for supplying a second source of hot sterile air to the atomized sterilant;
means for applying the atomized sterilant to [an interior of] a container [by extending a probe into the interior of the container]; and
means for supplying a third source of hot sterile drying air into the interior of the container for activating and drying the sterilant, wherein the container is upright.